

1 **In the Claims**

2
3 1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for seeking access to a first server, the
4 method comprising:

5 determining that a client seeking access to the first server is not
6 authenticated by an authentication server;

7 communicating a request for login information to be returned to the
8 authentication server from the client;

9 receiving the login information at the authentication server from the client;

10 authenticating the client by comparing the login information with
11 authentication information maintained by the authentication server; **and**

12 when the login information matches the authentication information,

13 generating a user authentication indicator at the authentication
14 server; **and**

15 sending the user authentication indicator to the first server[.]; **and**

16 sending user profile information associated with the client login
17 information to the first server.

18
19 2. **(Original)** The method of claim 0 wherein the user authentication indicator
20 does not contain reference to the login information.

21
22 3. **(Original)** The method of claim 0 wherein the user authentication indicator
23 includes a time stamp indicating the last time the client's login information was
24 refreshed.
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1 4. **(Original)** The method of claim 0 wherein the user authentication indicator
2 includes a time stamp indicating the last time the client sent login information.

3
4 5. **(Currently Amended)** One or more computer-readable memories media
5 ~~containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the~~
6 ~~method recited in claim 0~~ having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that
7 when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the following steps:

8 determining that a client seeking access to the first server is not
9 authenticated by an authentication server;

10 communicating a request for login information to be returned to the
11 authentication server from the client;

12 receiving the login information at the authentication server from the client;

13 authenticating the client by comparing the login information with
14 authentication information maintained by the authentication server;

15 when the login information matches the authentication information,

16 generating a user authentication indicator at the authentication
17 server;

18 sending the user authentication indicator to the first server; and

19 sending user profile information associated with the client login
20 information to the first server.

1 **6. (Original)** The method of claim 0, wherein the login information is used to
2 authenticate the client with respect to the authentication server but does not have to
3 be transmitted to the first server to authenticate the client with respect to the first
4 server.

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6 **7. (Currently Amended)** A method of authenticating a client with respect to a
7 network server to which the client is seeking access, the method comprising:

8 receiving a request at an authentication server from the network server to
9 authenticate a client;

10 determining that the client is not authenticated by the authentication server;

11 receiving login information at the authentication server from the client;

12 authenticating the client at the authentication server by comparing the
13 received login information with authentication information maintained by the
14 authentication server; and

15 determining that the received login information matches the authentication
16 information, whereupon an authentication indication is generated at the
17 authentication server and user profile information associated with the client login
18 information ~~and~~ are communicated to the network server.

19
20 **8. (Original)** The method of claim 0 wherein the authentication indication
21 further includes:

22 a first time stamp indicating the last time the client's login information was
23 refreshed; and

24 a second time stamp indicating the last time the client sent login
25 information.

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2 9. **(Original)** The method of claim 0 wherein the network server includes a
3 web server coupled to the Internet.

4
5 10. **(Original)** The method of claim 0 wherein the received login information
6 includes a login ID and a password.

7
8 11. **(Original)** The method of claim 0 further comprising concealing the
9 received login information from the network server.

10
11 12. **(Original)** The method of claim 0 further comprising concealing the
12 authentication information from the network server.

13
14 13. **(Original)** The method of claim 0 wherein the client has registered with
15 the authentication server prior to receiving the request.

16
17 14. **(Original)** The method of claim 0 wherein the network server has
18 registered with the authentication server prior to receiving the request.

19
20 15. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 0, wherein the login
21 information is used to authenticate the client with respect to the authentication
22 server but does not have to be transmitted to the ~~first~~ network server to
23 authenticate the client with respect to the network server.
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25

1 16. **(Original)** The method of claim 0, wherein the authentication indication
2 acts as a client authentication indicator.

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4 17. **(Currently Amended)** One or more computer-readable media having
5 stored thereon a plurality of instructions that when executed by a processor, cause
6 the processor to perform the following steps:

7 receiving a request to authenticate a user seeking access to a network
8 server;

9 determining that the user is not authenticated by an authentication server;

10 receiving login information at the authentication server from the user;

11 authenticating the user at the authentication server by comparing the
12 received login information with authentication information maintained by the
13 authentication server;

14 when the received login information matches the authentication
15 information,

16 generating a user authentication indicator at the authentication
17 server; ~~and~~

18 sending the user authentication indicator to the network server[.];

19 and

20 sending user profile information associated with the client login
21 information to the network server.

22
23 18. **(Original)** The computer-readable media of claim 0 wherein the received
24 login information includes a login ID and a password.

1 19. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-readable media of claim 0, wherein
2 the login information is used to authenticate the client with respect to the
3 authentication server but does not have to be transmitted to the first network server
4 to authenticate the client with respect to the network server.

5
6 20. **(Currently Amended)** A system comprising:

7 a network server to receive a request by ~~the~~ a client to gain access to the
8 network server,

9 the network server to transmit a request to the authentication server
10 for the authentication server to authenticate the client, wherein the request
11 includes the client's login information;

12 an authentication server to determine that the client is authenticated with
13 respect to the authentication server,

14 the authentication server to transmit a ~~user~~ client authentication
15 indicator to the network server, wherein the client authentication indicator
16 to indicate whether the client is authenticated; and

17 whereby the network server is to grant access to the client at the network
18 server and wherein the network server is to receive user profile information
19 associated with the client login information when the client authentication
20 indicator determines that the client is authenticated at the authentication server.

21
22 21. **(Original)** The system of claim 0 wherein the network server is to deny
23 access to the client if the user authentication indicator indicates that the client is
24 not authenticated.

1 22. **(Original)** The system of claim 0 wherein the user authentication indicator
2 includes a first time stamp indicating the last time the client's login information
3 was refreshed.

4
5 23. **(Original)** The system of claim 0 wherein the user authentication indicator
6 includes a second time stamp indicating the last time the client physically entered
7 their login information.